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Holiday, December 22-27, 2017 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: Metro

## A MUST-SEE HOLIDAY FILM

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## WELCOME TO METRO PHILLY

**MORGAN ROUSSEAU, MANAGING EDITOR**

Metro is taking a short hiatus during the upcoming holiday week. That means we will only publish our print edition one day next week — Thursday, Dec. 28. We won't publish again until Tuesday, Jan. 2, so be sure to pick us up then. If you miss us, don't fret. You can always keep up with the latest news, lifestyle and entertainment stories by visiting **metro.us**. Here's wishing everyone a very happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year in 2018.

## 8.8 MILLION FOR 2018 OBAMACARE PLAN

1 About 8.8 million people signed up for 2018 Obamacare health insurance plans on the federally run HealthCare.gov, a top U.S. health official said on Thursday, about a 4 percent decline from sign-ups for 2017. The Twitter post from Seema Verma, the head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, did not provide further details. The truncated signup period for 2018 policies closed on Dec. 15 on the federal website, which handles online enrollment in 39 states. The remaining states run their own online enrollment and have deadlines as late as Jan. 31. The HealthCare.gov enrollment could rise from the 8.8 million because the U.S. government extended the enrollment period in several hurricane-affected areas.

## FACEBOOK ADS TARGET YOUNGER WORKERS

2 Several U.S. employers engaged in age discrimination by placing recruitment ads on Facebook targeting younger workers, according to a lawsuit filed on Wednesday by a communications industry labor union. Companies including T-Mobile US, Amazon and Cox Communications imposed age limits on who could see recruitment ads, limiting some only to people younger than 38, according to the lawsuit, filed in federal court in San Francisco by the Communications Workers of America. The lawsuit is the latest example of criticism leveled at Facebook for so-called microtargeting, a process that has allowed advertisers to choose who sees their ads based on age, interests, race and even such characteristics as whether they dislike people based on race or religion.

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW
A CHRISTMAS FEATURE
3 A man dressed as Santa Claus dives in the Paris aquarium Dec. 21.
GETTY IMAGES

## TRUMP RAIL-SAFETY REG ROLLBACK QUESTIONED

4 As investigators sift through the wreckage of this week's Amtrak train crash in Washington state, critics have begun questioning President Donald Trump's recent efforts to roll back or delay finalizing U.S. rail safety regulations. Making American railroads safer drew renewed attention after the passenger train derailed Monday morning while speeding onto a bridge, killing three passengers and sending about 100 people to hospitals. The accident occurred as the U.S. Transportation Department is reviewing a series of rail safety requirements or proposals set under prior administrations. The White House has promised a sweeping effort to eliminate regulations throughout government and cut at least two existing regulations for every new one.

## US ECONOMY GROWS AT ITS FASTEST PACE

5 The U.S. economy grew at its fastest pace in more than two years in the third quarter, powered by robust business spending, and is poised for what could be a modest lift next year from sweeping tax cuts passed by Congress this week. While other data Thursday showed a jump in the number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits last week, the underlying trend in jobless claims remained consistent with a tightening labor market. The strong economy and tight jobs market has led many analysts to question the need for the $1.5 trillion tax cut package. Republicans in Congress this week approved the largest overhaul of the tax code in 30 years, handing President Donald Trump a major legislative victory. Trump is expected to sign the legislation soon.

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# Carriage horses from decaying stables will be sent to sanctuary

Facing pressure from the city and activists, Philly Carriage Co. to close down and surrender animals.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

A Philly carriage-horse company whose decrepit stables were cited for numerous animal-welfare violations over the summer will close by 2018, after the company agreed to surrender its horses to an animal sanctuary.

"It's a wonderful Christmas present for the horses," said Janet White, founder of the Carriage Horse Freedom activist group, who first documented the code violations at the Callowhill stables of Philadelphia Carriage Companies (PCC). "This is a good outcome."

The agreement was finalized Thursday after the city filed an emergency injunction demanding the immediate forfeiture of horses DaVinci, Little Blue and Tucker, and the closure of the business.

That step was precipitated after, Nov. 28, an ACCT Philly (Animal Care & Control Team) employee saw PCC working horses that had been ordered off the streets for medical reasons, including DaVinci, who suffered from "chronic respiratory illness problems linked to the deplorable conditions of PCC's makeshift stables," according to court papers.

Instead of being forced to close, PCC owner Hanhee Yoo agreed to close her business by the end of 2017.

Erin Connelly stands next to a carriage horse, asking potential patrons to walk away in Old City, Philadelphia, on July 15, 2017. RANDI FAIR

Her eight horses will be transferred to the Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue in Mount Airy, Maryland, which rehabilitates and former draft horses, the larger, working-breed horses.

"These horses will all end up in absolutely wonderful places for the rest of their lives," said Christine Hajek, founder and president of Gentle Giants, which has a herd of 105 horses on its 250 acres. "First we get them healthy, then we evaluate them physically, then look their training, determine what we think their next suitable job would be, and then we look for their next home. If that home never comes, they stay with us for the rest of their life."

PCC, one of two Philly companies that operate carriage-horse tours, was cited over the summer for numerous code and animal-welfare violations found at the 100-year-old former wire-spring factory it uses for stables.

City inspectors found some animals covered in their own urine and excrement, with some horses in stables too narrow for them to turn around, and suspended PCC's license.

"It's a good ending," said City Councilman Mark Squilla, who participated in negotiations to protect the horses.

The city's other horse-drawn tour company, 76 Carriage Tours, passed its inspections over the summer. But some horse-lovers say that isn't enough and want all horse-carriage tours ended.

"Yes, they're not as bad, but they certainly don't come close to meeting the needs of a horse," PETA activist Marianne Bessey said. "They're still forced to lug tourists around and spend all day in traffic breathing dust and fumes. … The next step is a full ban on horse-drawn carriage tours."

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# Pope Francis criticized for his role in Cardinal Bernard Law's funeral

The move upset some sexual abuse survivors who say the disgraced former Boston archbishop should not be given the honor.

KRISTIN TOUSSAINT
@kristindakota
kristin.toussaint@metro.us

Pope Francis took part in the funeral service for Cardinal Bernard Law, the former archbishop of Boston who died Wednesday at 86 and left a disgraced legacy associated with the sexual abuse scandals within the Catholic Church.

Law's funeral Mass was held Thursday in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and was presided over by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, dean of the College of Cardinals, as well as other cardinals and bishops, according to the Catholic News Agency.

Francis, who has previously highlighted the importance of forgiveness in his public speakings, presided over the rite of Last Commendation and the Valediction.

In a statement, Francis offered condolences to the College of Cardinals for Law's death.

"I raise prayers for the repose of his soul, that the Lord, God who is rich in mercy, may welcome him in His eternal peace, and I send my apostolic blessing to those who share in mourning the passing of the cardinal, whom I entrust to the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary Salus Populi Romani," Francis said in the statement.

The official statement from the Vatican did not mention the sexual abuse of minors within the Catholic Church.

Law was ordained as a priest in 1981 and appointed archbishop of Boston in 1984, a position he held until 2002. He resigned from that position following multiple reports exposing a system of abuse in the Catholic Church in Boston in which priests who sexually abused minors were not removed from the ministry.

The scandal was chronicled by the Boston Globe Spotlight Team through multiple articles at the time and was turned into a feature film in 2015.

Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley, who succeeded Law as the archbishop of Boston, issued a statement Wednesday in which he apologized to those who were sexually abused during Law's leadership.

"I recognize that Cardinal Law's passing brings forth a wide range of emotions on the part of many people," Cardinal O'Malley said in his statement. "I am particularly cognizant of all who experienced the trauma of sexual abuse by clergy, whose lives were so seriously impacted by those crimes, and their families and loved ones. To those men and women, I offer my sincere apologies for the harm they suffered, my continued prayers and my promise that the Archdiocese will support them in their effort to achieve healing."

O'Malley was not at Law's funeral, the Boston Globe reported, as he just returned from a week in Rome. He was able to visit Law in the hospital, his spokesperson told the Globe.

Victims of sexual abuse at the hands of priests were outraged over the Church's funeral plans, CNN reported. Many did not have condolences to offer about Law's death and believe that he does not deserve a service of such honor.

"I think it should be very quiet and not celebrated," said Alexa MacPherson, a Boston-area native who says she was sexually abused by a priest as a child, at a news conference on Wednesday. "There's nothing to celebrate [with] somebody who allowed children to be victimized and to have a lifetime of irreparable damage."

Cardinal Law was Archbishop of Boston from 1984 until 2002. GETTY IMAGES

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# Apple admits to intentionally slowing down your older iPhone

The company says it has throttled the performance of some older models to preserve battery life.

LENYON WHITAKER
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Apple finally admits to intentionally slowing down the performance of older iPhones, causing many people to be forced into upgrading their devices.

Owners of iPhone 6s have recently noticed their phones shut down unexpectedly, even after having the phone's battery swapped out in Apple's battery-replacement program.

In recent days, owners have taken to Reddit to vent about their iPhones becoming a lot slower after they upgraded to the latest operating system. One user shared performance tests on Reddit showing that their iPhone 6S slowed down.

"I used my brother's iPhone 6 Plus, and his was faster than mine. This is when I knew something was wrong," Reddit user TeckFire wrote.

The company has confirmed that it slows down the performance of some iPhone models, but it claims the reason is to "prolong the life" of customers' phones and prevent them from shutting down unexpectedly.

"Our goal is to deliver the best experience for customers, which includes overall performance and prolonging the life of their devices," Apple said in a statement.

"Lithium-ion batteries become less capable of supplying peak current demands when in cold conditions, have a low battery charge or as they age over time, which can result in the device unexpectedly shutting down to protect its electronic components."

This may explain why your older iPhone may shut off completely when it is cold outside.

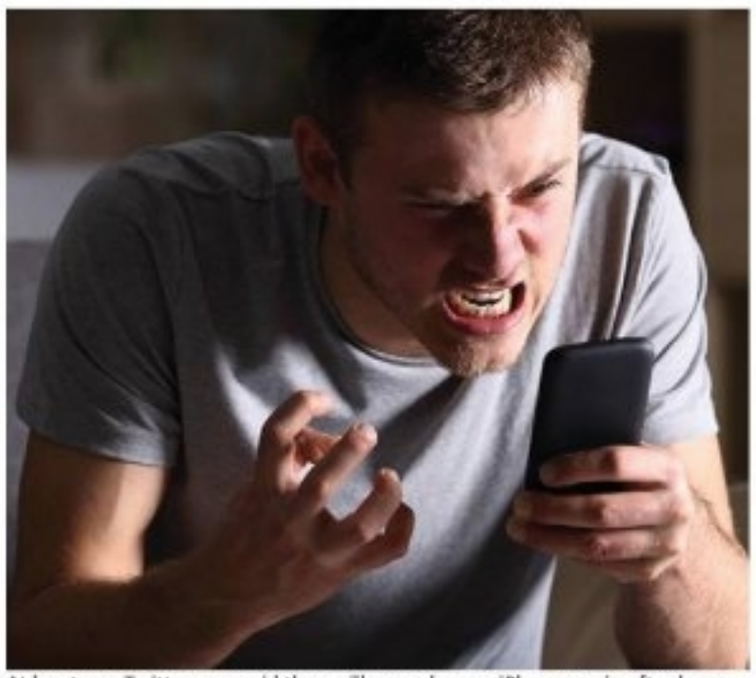
Although Apple claims it has rational reasons for slowing down older devices, die-hard Apple fans believe they are being forced into upgrading their phones.

At least one Twitter user says learning about the throttling, has turned him off to Apple phones. "Since Apple admits they slow down old iPhones I'll admit I probably won't buy a new iPhone," Twitter user Jeff Zenisek wrote.

Some users on Reddit have found a reason to believe that Apple is slowing down other products too, especially laptops. It would be better if Apple sent out some kind of warning or notification to let users know their phone performance will slow down after updating the operating system, but as of now, it doesn't.

Marco Arment, an iOS and web developer, believes Apple's tactic to "prolong" iPhone battery life and not letting the user know, could affect what people think about the company for years to come.

"For years, we've reassured people that no, Apple doesn't secretly slow down their older iPhones to make them buy new ones," he wrote in a tweet. "If this must be done, it should be a setting. If it's on by default, the user should be alerted the first time it happens."



At least one Twitter user said they will never buy an iPhone again after learning Apple slows down phones intentionally. ISTOCK

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"Father Figures" ses brothers — played by Ed Helms and Owen Wilson — on a road trip to find their real dad. Shenanigans predictably ensue. ALL PHOTOS WARNER BROS.

# 'Father Figures' is the perfect holiday film

At least, according to Ed Helms, Owen Wilson and JK Simmons.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
@MetroPhilly
gregory.wakeman@metro.us

The Christmas movie calendar is now just as competitive as the summer-blockbuster season, just in a much smaller period.

While "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" kicked things off last week, the likes of "Molly's Game," "I, Tonya," and "Phantom Thread" have also been released in a bid to be Oscar contenders.

Then there's "Father Figures," a comedy starring Ed Helms and Owen Wilson as they trek across America trying to find their real dad, who might just be JK Simmons. Or Terry Bradshaw. And Helms, Wilson and Simmons insist that "Father Figures" is actually the perfect holiday film.

"It is really damn funny. It kind of goes down easy," Helms explains. "But then it sneaks up on you and tugs your heart strings a little bit, and reminds you how important it is to accept your family for all of its flaws.

"And that's a pretty good holiday message I think. I don't know if 'Star Wars' is telling you that this holiday season."

Wilson agrees. "If you like an underdog, then go see this movie," he says.

"If you're pro Death Star then go see 'Star Wars,'" Helms adds. "If you're pro Jedi go see 'Father Figures.'"

Jokes aside, the opportunity to star in a film with Helms and Wilson was one of the main reasons why Simmons signed up for "Father Figures" — as was the opportunity to play someone truly reprehensible.

"What I am drawn to is going up and down and sideways and trying to do different characters," Simmons says. "I honestly don't remember what I did the movie or two before 'Father Figures.' But I was drawn to it because he was different to what I had just done.

GETTY IMAGES

"Plus I got to be improvisational alongside Owen and Ed, and just have fun doing it," he continues. "It's always fun to play an unrelenting bastard, too."

Meanwhile, for Wilson, "Father Figures" presented the chance to portray a different kind of comedic character.

"It has changed for me just in the sense of being a father and at 49 it would be odd for me to be in the films I was in in my early 30s," he says. "So the characters change, just in the nature of what you are suitable to play. As great an actor as Daniel Day Lewis is, I don't think he could [still] pull off playing Otter from 'Animal House.'"

Wilson also insisted that the subject matter caught his attention, too, especially since it allowed him to essentially live out a childhood dream.

"We talk a lot in the movie about the universe, and maybe that was the universe's way of evening the score because they knew that they owed me a debt because I had always dreamed of being Terry Bradshaw," he says. "But instead this allowed me to become friends with him."

You can see if Bradshaw still has it, and if Wilson was able to go toe to toe with the football legend, when "Father Figures" is released Dec. 22.

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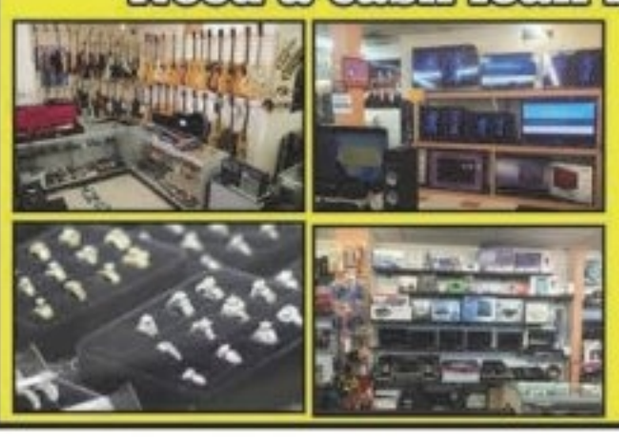

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## "I, Tonya"

**Director:** Craig Gillespie
**Stars:** Margot Robbie, Allison Janney
**Rating:** R

●●●●○

There really isn't a dull moment in "I, Tonya." It starts off at breakneck speed and doesn't look back, as the film and its characters bulldoze their way through Tonya's ascension to the top of the U.S. figure skating team in short, zippy, funny scenes that are backed by a catchy soundtrack.

As Harding, Robbie unleashes an extra dimension to her acting talents. Fearlessly carrying the film, while dancing between comedy and drama, she will leave you dazzled with the emotion she conveys. And Allison Janney, as Tonya's charismatically offensive mother, is so rude, in your face and immense that she is immediately the front-runner for the Best Supporting Actress gong.

There's a surprising depth to "I, Tonya," too, as the sheer resilience of Harding stirs. Its exuberance and energy alone make it one of the most watchable films of 2017. GREGORY WAKEMAN

## "Call Me By Your Name"

**Director:** Luca Guadagnino
**Stars:** Armie Hammer, Timothee Chalamet, Michael Stuhlbarg
**Rating:** R

●●●●●

Words can't fully describe my infatuation with "Call Me By Your Name." It is such an all-consuming depiction of love it leaves you battered, bruised and exhausted. Yet you still find yourself yearning — and returning — to its beauty. Much like being in love itself.

Director Luca Guadagnino connects Armie Hammer and Timothee Chalamet's characters in such an intimate manner that the screen between audience and character dissipates. Under Guadagnino's guidance, Hammer and Chalamet forge not only a genuine dynamic, but a friendship, bond and love that is so perceptive and strong it taps into the viewer's own experiences.

Even a few months after watching "Call Me By Your Name" for the first time, I'm still in awe. It's much more than one of the best films of 2017. It's what cinema is really all about. GW

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## "Downsizing"

**Director:** Alexander Payne
**Stars:** Matt Damon, Hong Chau
**Rating:** R

●●◐○○

For most of "Downsizing," you barely even notice that its characters are small. Considering the film doesn't have much else to offer, that's a big problem.

There are still the odd moments of humor and enlightenment that elevate the proceedings. From time to time, there are slapstick silly moments that show what "Downsizing" could have been like. Unfortunately, though, the film spends too much time trying to educate its audience.

It feels like a wasted opportunity, and we've seen much better from director Alexander Payne — and Matt Damon, Kristen Wiig and Christoph Waltz, too. Especially as they're all eclipsed by newcomer Hong Chau, whose supporting performance really does chime: The film's most impactful moments come through her. It's a shame that there's nowhere near enough of them. GW

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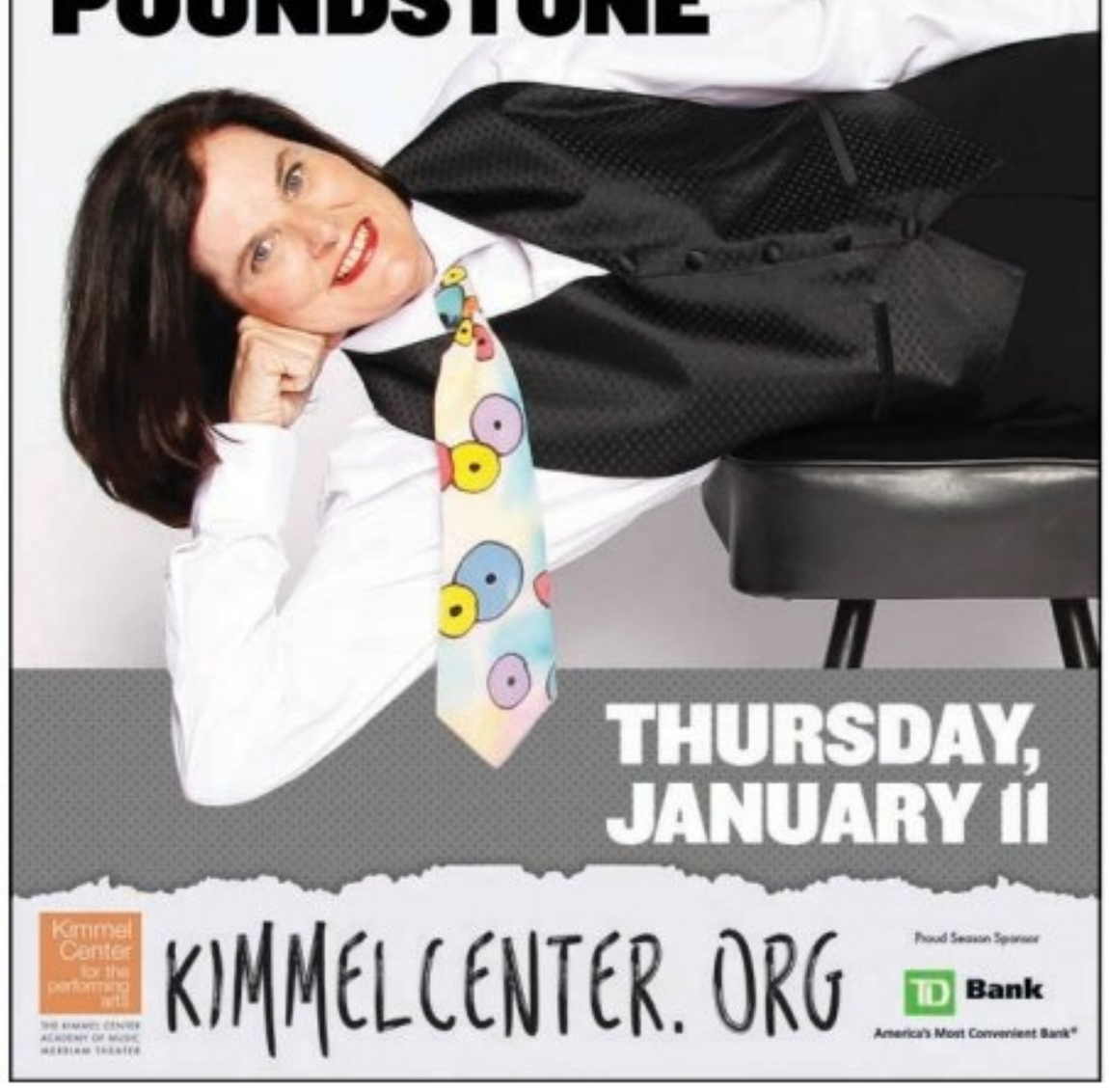

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With Christmas only a few days away, there is limited time to get your fill of Philly's most delicious holiday eats. From a Feast of the Seven Fishes-style pizza to Venezuelan holiday specialties, try to squeeze in these treats before they're gone. Thanks to oversized Christmas sweaters, you can save the calorie counting for next year.

There are really seven kinds of fish on this Pizza of the Seven Fishes.

### Pizza of the Seven Fishes

Most people have heard of the Feast of the Seven Fishes tradition, but have you ever heard of a Pizza of the Seven Fishes? The team at SLiCE Pizza is bringing back their annual holiday pie, which features mozzarella topped with clams, mussels, shrimp, tuna, crab meat, sardines, anchovies fresh lemon and basil. Yup, we counted seven different kinds of fish on the pizza so it's the real deal. It will be available through Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 and costs $19 for a small pie and $26 for a large pie.

*SLiCE Pizza*
*1740 Sansom St., 1180 S. 10th St.*
*137 Egg Harbor Rd., 431 E Girard Ave.*
*slicepa.com*

Punk Burger has teamed up with Franklin Fountain on holiday milkshakes. ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

### Holiday-themed milkshakes

In the mood for a sweet treat? The holiday-themed milkshakes at P'unk Burger on East Passyunk will even make Scrooges merry. Their collaboration with Franklin Fountain has yielded two specialty flavors for the season — an eggnog custard milkshake (home cooked custard with egg yolks, infused with orange peel, nutmeg and brandy) and the nondairy peppermint stick (hand-made crushed red and green peppermint candy ribbons in a coconut-milk-based peppermint ice cream.) Yum!

*P'unk Burger, 1823 Passyunk Ave.*
*punkburger.com*

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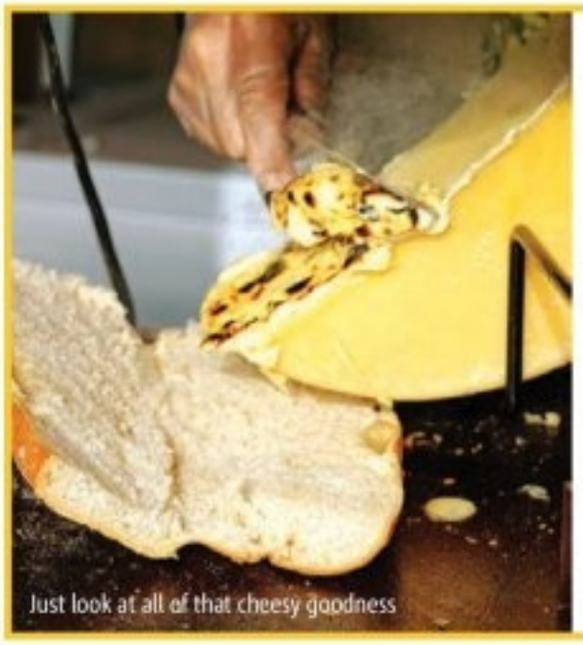

Just look at all of that cheesy goodness

## Raclette

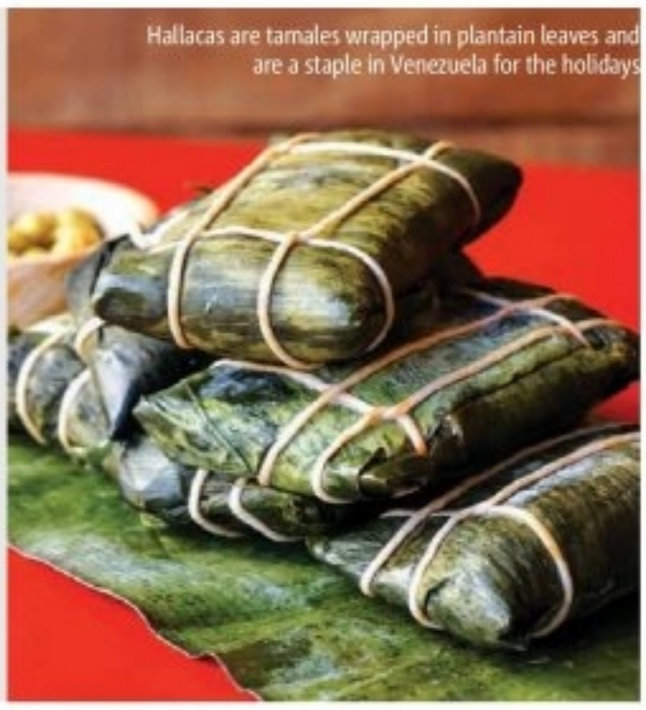
Baked Cheese Haus out of Wisconsin just may have brought the best thing since sliced bread to Philly — the raclette. Dating back hundreds of years, Swiss cheese is melted over a fire and scraped over a baguette or potatoes. At Christmas Village, you can get it on a baguette and on a cold, wintry day, it's the ultimate comfort food. You can still try it through the end of Christmas Village, which is open through Christma Eve.

*Baked Cheese Haus*
*Christmas Village, 1501 JFK Blvd.*
*philachristmas.com*

## Hallacas

In the United States, we're all about baking Christmas cookies to share with family and friends but in Venezuela, it's all about the hallacas, holiday tamales, and Puyero Venezuelan Flavor has some on the menu for the holiday. The variety features corn dough stuffed with chicken stew adorned with potatoes, olive and raisins — all wrapped up in plantain leaves. One hallaca costs $9, five cost $42.50 and 10 cost $80.

Puyero Venezuelan Flavor
*524 S. 4th St, puyeroflavor.com*


Hallacas are tamales wrapped in plantain leaves and are a staple in Venezuela for the holidays

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# ‘Let’s Start a Cult’ turns audiences into followers

The popular monthly show at Good Good Comedy Theater encourages internet interaction.

MIKE FENN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Ari Fishbein is the creator and host of “Let’s Start a Cult.” JOE BELL

Comedy shows have the power to do all kinds of things. They can—hopefully—make you laugh. They can make you think. They can even make you an integral part in starting a cult.

At least one comedy show can, that is.

“Let’s Start a Cult” is one of the most popular monthly shows at Good Good Comedy Theater in Chinatown. On Friday, Dec. 29, the show will have its final offering of 2017. Local comedian Ari Fishbein conceptualized the show as part of Five Dollar Comedy Week in July 2015 and has been hosting the monthly show since March 2016. The concept is simple.

“Let’s Start a Cult is a show with a mission: to start a cult with me as the leader,” Fishbein says.

The show opens with a brief stand-up performance by God, who is, fittingly, Fishbein himself behind a curtain, invisible to the audience. Following this, Fishbein (in the flesh) will deliver a sermon, the topics of which include new tenets of the show’s religion, stealing ideas from other cults, and even changing his own identity. “More often than not, though, the sermon serves as a framing device that allows me to basically show the audience something insane that I found on the internet and am able to tie back to the concept of starting a cult,” he explains.

Once the narrative has been established, nearly anything goes for Fishbein and his audience-members-turned-followers. Unlike most other comedy shows, the show can even extend to the world off the stage. “I have made a habit of getting into arguments with neo-Nazis on Twitter on this show since way before it was fashionable,” Fishbein says. “In one particular instance, I had three comedians come up on stage and we all tweeted at one of these people until he blocked all of our accounts.”

With its “anything-can-happen” format, “Let’s Start a Cult” is certainly destined to close out a truly tumultuous year in a unique way that will leave the audience—er, followers—with stories to carry into 2018. As for the cult of Fishbein himself, immediately following the show, he will join a roster of fellow Philadelphia comedians for “Darlings,” a weekly sketch comedy show held at midnight each Friday. He can also be found on the first Saturday of each month as the co-host of “Big League,” a stand-up comedy showcase at the Barbary in Fishtown.

## If you go

“Let’s Start a Cult”
Friday, Dec. 29
10:00 p.m., $7
Good Good Comedy Theater
215 N. 11th St.,
goodgoodcomedy.com


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Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Self-Service Storage Facility Act, Pennsylvania Statutes, Title 73, Chapter 26 § 1901 et seq., a public auction will take place on **12/26/2017,** at the below-listed Public Storage facilities, for the following units, the contents of which shall be sold to satisfy the owner's lien. **Public Storage Located At, 592 Swedesford Road, Berwyn, PA 19132 at 10:00am 610-722-923**

1150 - Stratton, Eve • 1266 - Parmar, Raje
1268 - Parmar, Pravin • 1536 - Cummings, Thomas

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1122 - Lilick, Andrew • 1153 - Parsons, Kevin • 1154 - Bryer, Gary
2111 - Green, Marlena • 3054 - Momme, Scott • 3090 - Becks, Gary
3138 - Bonham, Dave • 3163 - Davis, Tracy • D1026 - Little, Jason

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A024 - Haley, Henry • A037 - Moran, Nancy
A043 - Craig, Deborah • C085 - Dixon, Barbara
F341 - Houser, Denise • F399 - Windsor, Hannah

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1030 - Hartman, Karen • 1158 - Calderone, Riccardo
1358 - Rice, Jacquelyne • 4030 - Mcdevitt, Nora

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A130-Colzie, Lisa • A216-Gripper, Naima • A222-Williams, Reginald • B326-Hill, Charlotte
B406-Sila, Benjamin • B410-Parson, Dionne • C520-Smiley, Denise • C531-Burks II, Ronald
C543-Lewis, Lisa • C612-Thompson, Brian • D844-Cuellar, Said • E1001-Green, Naftale
E1014-Draughn, Bernice • E1032-Serkoa, Joseph • H1503-Mcknight Jr, Ronnie • H1622-Solomon, Cynthia

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C005-Robbins, Christi • C096-Whitehouse, Lisa • C105-Hood, James • C125-Williams, Martin
D003-Chehab, Ahmad • D027-Sandlof, John • D117-Fital, David • D160-Felici, Jared
D192-OHANLON, MICHAEL • D213-Monroe, Briana • D271-Watts, Jasmine • D276-Paul, Steve
E153-Levy, Stanford • E167-Taylor-Young, Karen • E187-Ndanu, Kabongo • E206-davis, jeanette

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A002 - Yeat, Heather • A006 - Cooper, Mark • A087 - Chuck, Eileen • A111 - Docabo, Judy
B142 - Chrzanowski, Jody • B144 - Ngo, Hieu • B196 - Gordon, Jennifer • C291 - Soto, Luis
C344 - Keyes, Kaitlyn • C355 - Layport, Aimee • D378 - Lawlor, Richard • D389 - Brame, Lechole

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A005 - Mccaughey, Marykate • A065 - Hevia, Betty • A082 - Vega, Denica • A118 - Lawrence, Harry
A149 - Rivera, Tyrone • A151 - Kobylinski, Tammy • B007 - Burton, Sharita • B052 - Cox, Elizabeth
B063 - Holden, Crystal • B142 - Davis, Tara • D014 - Williams, Nicky • D018 - Gilchrist, Philip
D019 - Perry, Quanda • D020 - Thompson, Jaimie • D025 - Soni, Adesh • E006 - Gray, James
E024 - Coats, Moniquetta • E053 - Williams, Stephen • E096 - Sherman, Lakeisha
E112 - MARTINEZ, Anabell • G018 - Witherspoon, Carl

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A101 - Howard, T'vonne • A115 - Espinosa, Maicol • A403 - Young, Cathleen • A456 - Jones, Kenya
A714 - Santiesteban, Milagros • A738 - Tortis, Angie • A811 - Roach, Eric • A821 - Hill, Vonne • B1201 - Ballard, Erica
B1512 - Bell, Antoine • B1525 - Parker, Mikhael • B1710 - Figaro, Leonel • C2100 - Esquilin, Gregorio
C2127 - Harrad, Evelyn • C2301 - Davis, Calin • C2306 - Persico, Jesse

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0076 - Little, China • 0085 - Boykin, Lisa • 0174 - Exum, Wayne • 0234 - De chales, Carl • 0262 - Chandler, Latonia
0317 - epps, Mitchell • 0369 - Bettis, Asiyna • 0426 - Shaw, Keisha • 0533 - Lash, James
0594 - Thomas, Tina • 0602 - Bowie , Anthony • 0617 - Dunn, DeVonda • 0637 - Campbell, Rayon
0641 - Price, Wilhelmina • 0722 - Dunham, Mildred • 0836 - Houston, Monique
0860 - Lautman, Syreeta • 0915 - Howard, Marsha • 1079 - Ayres , Janet • 9036 - Frederic, David

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1018 - Walker, John • 1118 - Cancellare, Anthony • 1154 - Pugh, Shirley • 1197 - Murray, Susan • 1202 - Shiffler, Helen
1232 - Williams, Leneeda • 2139 - BURGESS, ELIZABETH • 2196 - Midenberg Law Firm, Pc • 2286 - Jones, Sharita
2371 - Wright, Stacy • 3010 - DELANGE, DANIELLE • 3036 - OConnell, Patrick • 3069 - Jordan, Shannon
3087 - Harris, Sholea • 3099 - Nunez, Jose • 3189 - Morgan, Pamela • 3233 - Adams-Thomas, Deidra
3328 - Hilmon, Diane • 3341 - Kwame, Isaac • 4087 - Bridges, April • 4096 - Morgan, Ricardo • 4102 - P, KAREN

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# 3 Things to watch for as Eagles return home, host the Raiders

## Playoff implications

It is likely that the Eagles will be battling for the No. 1 seed against Oakland Monday. If, by some twist, the Aaron Rodgers-less Packers are able to upset the Vikings on Sunday, Philly will be handed homefield throughout the playoffs. But if Minnesota does win, the Eagles will need to beat either the Raiders this week or the Cowboys next to clinch playoff games at home.

Already having guaranteed a home playoff game and first round bye, the Eagles can also focus on getting perhaps Nate Sudfield — Nick Foles' back up — some action over these last two games. Afterall he is one play away from being the Eagles playoff quarterback. And don't be surprised to see a lot of second unit action over the next couple weeks as well, as Philly tries to stay healthy and well-rounded preparing for the playoffs in January.

## Defensive rebound

On the season, the Eagles allow just 19.9 points per game, good for seventh in the NFL. But the last three games have not been played by a top 10 NFL defense. Over that stretch, Philly has allowed the fourth most points in the league, 29.3. The 29 points and 434 passing yards allowed to the 2-12 Giants last week is particularly troubling. Against Oakland, the secondary must tighten up, and tackling must improve.

"One thing that has hurt us particularly in this last game, were penalties and third down," Eagles defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz said. "The first three series of the game, I think we started 0-6 on third downs. You talk about a good formula for giving up points, there's one right there."

"When we're playing our best, we don't give teams a second chance."

## Ignore distractions

The trappings of being the No. 1 seed bring with them high expectations. More this season than recent seasons prior the national media is praising, criticizing and taking a very close interest in the Eagles, with or without Wentz. To assure postseason success, veteran voices like Malcolm Jenkins and LeGarrette Blount — each who have Super Bowl rings — will need to be loud in the locker room.

"Quite honestly, we just have to continue to talk to them and continue to educate them and just understand there's going to be highs and lows," head coach Doug Pederson said. EVAN MACY

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# Here's what each Flyers player needs to have on his letter to Santa

After turning around their season, the Flyers deserve a few gifts. Here's what we want to give each player.

ERIC GOLDSTEIN
@EricEsponda
sports@metro.us

In the spirit of the holidays, we are excited to share our third annual Flyers gift-giving event. We got our list, checked it twice and now are ready to have fun and hand out presents unique to each player.

*Sean Couturier*
**First-half MVP award**
16 goals (team leader and career high). 15 assists. Plus-13 (second on team). Enough said.

*Valtteri Filppula*
**Consistency**
Disappears for long stretches of the year.

*Travis Konecny*
**Target practice**
Could double shot total (64) and increase number of goals (4) if put more pucks on net.

*Claude Giroux*
**Comeback player of the years**
After three straight seasons of declining point totals and bottoming out last year with 58 points, captain is on pace for 94 points.

*Jordan Weal*
**Visits from the Ghost of Christmas Past**
Remember the end of last year when he scored eight goals in the final 23 games?

Will Jake Voracek build an MVP case in the season's second half? NHLI VIA GETTY IMAGES

*Scott Laughton*
**Visit from the Ghost of Christmas Present**
Needs to prove this year that he can develop into top nine forward. in the NHL

*Nolan Patrick*
**Visit from the Ghost of Christmas Future**
Has displayed flashes of brilliance, but needs to see full potential to reach it.

*Jori Lehtera*
**Trade or buyout**
Acquired from the Blues in the Brayden Schenn trade, the forward is not a fit.

*Taylor Leier*
**Protein shakes**
At 5-10, 174 pounds, rookie needs to bulk up to complement lightning speed.

*Michael Raffl*
**An Elf on the Shelf**
Just because...

*Wayne Simmonds*
**A hot streak**
Is due for one of his month-long stretches that carry the team.

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*Jakub Voracek*
**His facial hair back**
We prefer the scraggly gingered face to the clean-shaven one for the NHL's assist leader.

*Dale Weise*
**Lifetime supply of Christmas cards to send to Ron Hextall**
GM signed the underperforming forward to $9.4 million, four-year deal.

*Shayne Gostisbehere*
**An All-Star selection**
Has bounced back nicely from sophomore slump to lead NHL defensemen in power play points.

*Radko Gudas*
**Copy of the movie "Anger Management" starring Adam Sandler and Jack Nicholson**
Does this really need an explanation?

NHL players write letters to Santa too. NHLI VIA GETTY IMAGES

*Robert Hagg*
**First-half Barry Ashbee Award for team's best defenseman**
One goal. Four assists. Plus 14. 117 hits (ranks second in NHL). 47 blocks (second on team). Rookie is biggest surprise of the year.

*Andrew MacDonald*
**Some Respect**
Hardly an all-star, but tenured D-man brings stability and leadership to a young unit.

*Ivan Provorov*
**A plush recliner**
His 25-minute per game average ranks 14th in NHL. Deserves to put his feet up.

*Travis Sanheim*
**Goals**
Offensive-minded rookie blueliner is poised to have a breakout second half.

*Brian Elliott*
**The No. 1 job**
Originally signed to platoon, the goalie could eclipse career high of 48 starts in 2009-10.

*Michal Neuvirth*
**Some health**
With little NHL-ready depth between the pipes on the Phantoms, the backup must provide relief for Elliott if the team plans on making the playoffs.

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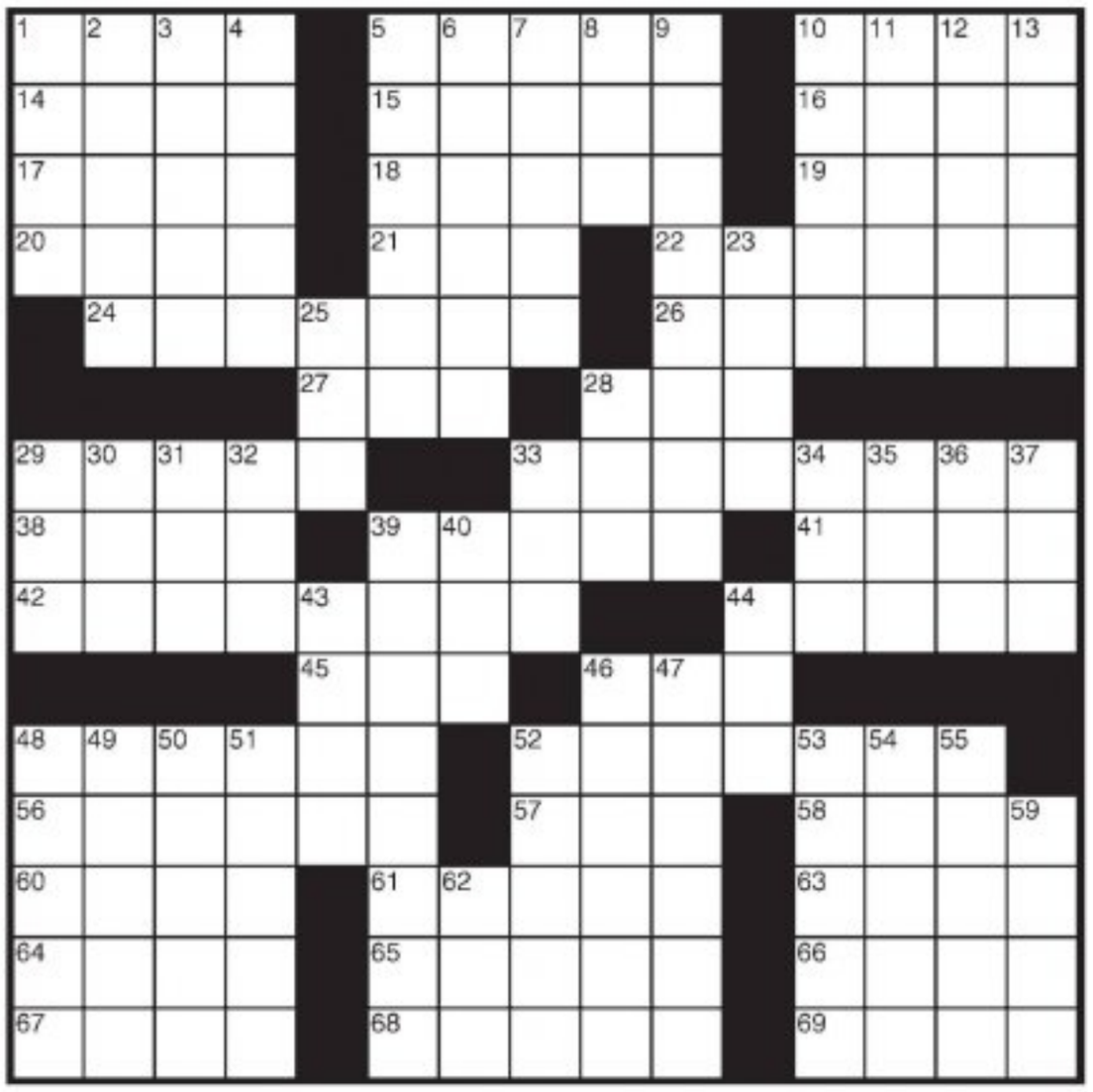
# metro.us/games

## metro.us/crossword

**Across**
1 Wait
5 Loose-fitting dress
10 Obsessed whaler
14 Denver's altitude
15 Private teacher
16 Volcanic rock
17 Elevator maker
18 Psi follower
19 Natural resources
20 High spirits
21 Flood control
22 Stick
24 Naval officers
26 Browns lightly
27 Popeye's affirmative
28 Egg qty.
29 Oman neighbor
33 Romantic ballad
38 River in Russia
39 Sacred images
41 Long hike
42 Capital of Nepal (var.)
44 At the time when
45 -- Cruces, N.M.
46 Estuary
48 Takes the dais
52 Blending together
56 Teeny-tiny
57 Friend of Henri
58 Colt's parent
60 Weight deduction
61 Protuberances
63 Bridge support
64 Singer -- Adams
65 Cool place
66 Nonstop
67 Did a salon job
68 Television awards
69 Optical device

**Down**
1 Big-city pollution problem
2 Distinguishing name of a book
3 Non-earthling
4 Pro votes
5 Unduly formal
6 Kind
7 Things on a list
8 Driving hazard
9 Farm vehicles
10 Kauai hello
11 Long-eared animals
12 Turn away
13 Foundations
23 Flow slowly
25 Fleming of 007 novels
28 Study
29 -- it up (have some laughs)
30 Epoch
31 Picture border
32 Blight victim
33 Not worth a --
34 Ultimate degree
35 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
36 Mid-Atlantic st.
37 Barely get by
39 From one perspective (3 wds.)
40 Music media
43 Nautical position
44 Move from side to side
46 Nostrum
47 Spring blooms
48 Decided on
49 Prepared for action
50 Nest on a crag
51 Woolen fabric
52 Polite address
53 Oblige
54 Unwary
55 Restful color
59 Does the wrong thing
62 Electrical unit



## metro.us/sudoku

**easy**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 3 | 8 | | 4 | 1 | |
| | | | 9 | | 6 | | | |
| | | 3 | | | | | 9 | 8 |
| 4 | | | 6 | 3 | | | 5 | |
| 9 | 1 | | | 2 | | | 7 | 4 |
| | 2 | | | 7 | 9 | | | 1 |
| 5 | 9 | | | | | 2 | | |
| | | | 1 | | 8 | | | |
| | 4 | 8 | | 6 | 2 | | | |

**hard**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 5 | 2 | | 7 | | 3 | |
| 3 | | | 1 | | | | 8 | |
| | | 9 | 6 | | | | 7 | |
| 9 | 7 | 6 | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | 7 | | 4 | | | 3 |
| | | | | | | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| | 9 | | | | 8 | 7 | | |
| | 6 | | | | 1 | | | 8 |
| | 4 | | 5 | | 2 | 3 | | |

## metro.us/horoscopes

**Aries** Mix business with pleasure to impress someone who can make a difference to your future. Conversations will lead to inside information that will with a decision.

**Taurus** Partnerships should take priority. Too much of anything will lead to consequences. Make personal improvements instead of trying to change someone else.

**Gemini** Make plans to get together with an old friend or former co-worker. You'll be offered interesting information that can lead to new beginnings. Romance is highlighted.

**Cancer** Problems with children, relatives or friends who don't see things your way will sprout. Compromise will be required if you wish to maintain peace.

**Leo** Set your emotions free. Speak up about your feelings and disclose your personal intentions and plans. Avoid indulgence and poor judgment regarding home and family.

**Virgo** Offering to help with any preparations or responsibilities will give others less to complain about. Do your part and you'll gain respect.

**Libra** Make some positive changes at home or have a heart-to-heart talk with someone who can help make your life easier. Spend less money and choose not to be decadent.

**Scorpio** Curb bad habits. Walk away from temptation or anyone trying to convince you to spend excessively or go overboard. Use your common sense and basic instincts.

**Sagittarius** Displaying charm while offering d cooperation will help you maintain personal balance. Knowing where you fit in will encourage collaboration with friends and relatives.

**Capricorn** A special gesture will help you gain respect and impress someone who can assist you in reaching your goals. Personal information should be kept secret.

**Aquarius** Update your resume and consider what you would like to do next. Choices based on reason will be worth pursuing, as long as you don't go overboard.

**Pisces** Overspending, indulging and avoiding personal matters will leave you feeling regretful. Set a limit and stick to it. Discipline and patience are encouraged. EUGENIA LAST

**Yesterday's answers**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | A | I | K | U | | A | R | A | B | | D | O | D | O |
| A | L | L | E | N | | F | I | C | A | | A | M | I | D |
| R | A | K | E | D | | R | A | R | E | | M | E | N | D |
| D | I | S | L | O | C | A | T | E | D | | A | N | T | S |
| | | | | C | O | M | A | | E | R | G | | | |
| K | N | U | C | K | L | E | | O | K | E | E | F | F | E |
| I | O | T | A | S | | | S | H | E | D | | L | O | A |
| T | R | I | M | | S | P | O | O | R | | S | A | N | S |
| E | S | C | | S | U | E | D | | | A | S | I | D | E |
| S | E | A | R | I | N | G | | S | E | V | E | R | A | L |
| | | | E | L | L | | C | O | P | E | | | | |
| R | A | M | P | | A | V | A | L | A | N | C | H | E | S |
| O | R | E | O | | M | I | S | O | | G | U | E | S | T |
| A | I | R | S | | P | A | I | N | | E | R | A | S | E |
| R | A | V | E | | S | L | O | G | | S | T | R | E | W |

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